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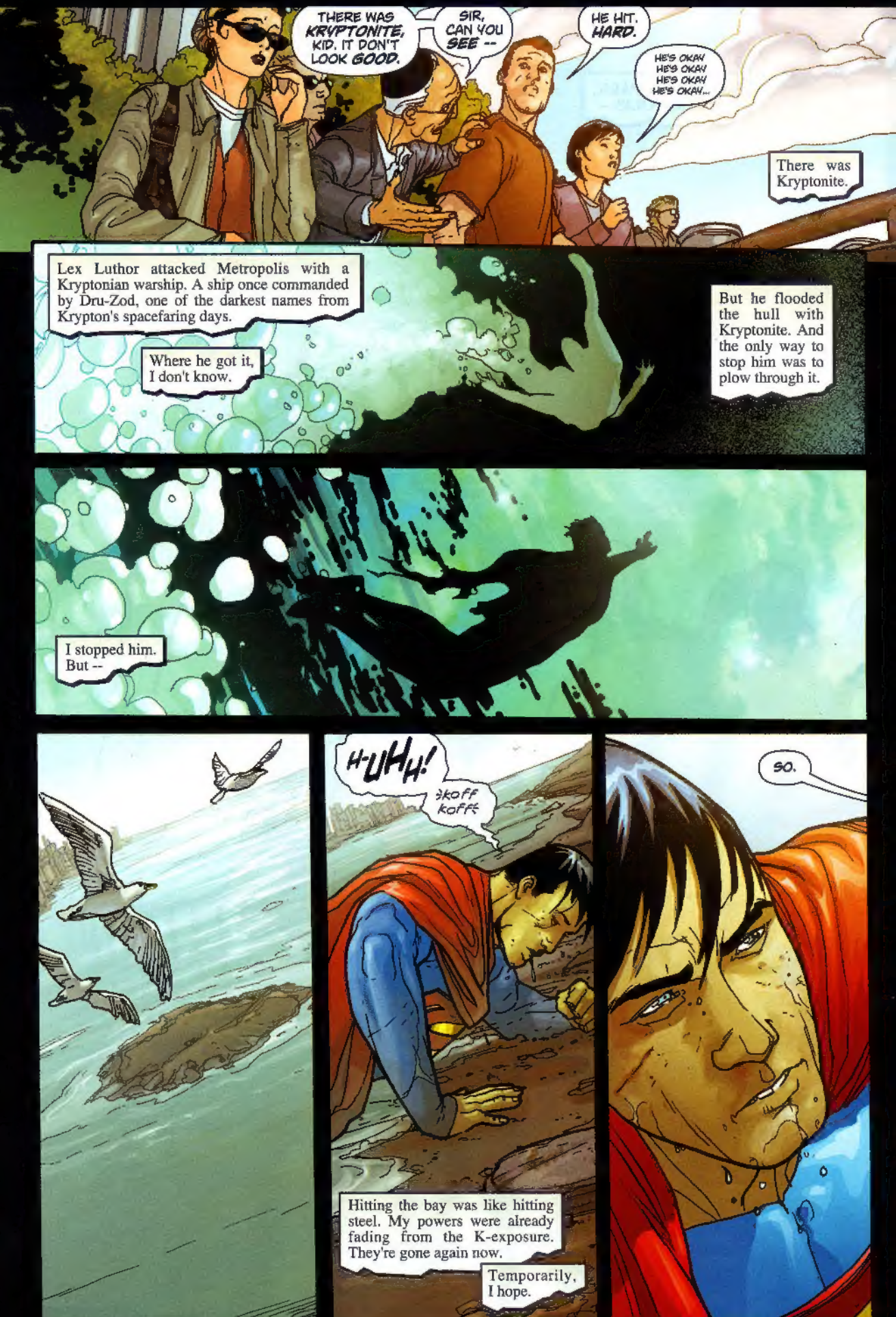
OUTLOOK PARK, METROPOLIS —
SUPERMAN?!
OH, MAN, WHAT HAP —


THERE WAS KRYPTONITE, KID. IT DON'T LOOK GOOD.
SIR, CAN YOU SEE --
HE HIT. HARD.
HE'S OKAY HE'S OKAY HE'S OKAY HE'S OKAY...
There was Kryptonite.
Lex Luthor attacked Metropolis with a Kryptonian warship. A ship once commanded by Dru-Zod, one of the darkest names from Krypton's spacefaring days.
Where he got it, I don't know.
But he flooded the hull with Kryptonite. And the only way to stop him was to plow through it.
I stopped him. But --
H-UHH!
skoff koff
Hitting the bay was like hitting steel. My powers were already fading from the K-exposure. They're gone again now.
Temporarily, I hope.
SO.

LUTHOR.
YOU LOOK BATTERED, ALIEN. WEARY.
I AM.
YOUR SHIP WAS ALMOST ENOUGH.
AND YOU? YOU SURVIVED THE FALL, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR PROTECTIVE SUIT SHORTED OUT.
HNH.
SO HERE WE ARE. JUST US.
JUST US.
SO WHAT NOW?
NOW?
NOW YOU'VE BEEN DRAGGED DOWN TO HUMAN LEVEL, YOU OBSCENE ALIEN PARASITE. NOW WE'RE ON EVEN FOOTING.
SNKK
NNH!
NOW I BEAT YOU TO DEATH WITH THESE TWO HANDS!

WHY?
PLOK
HH!
WHY CLING SO HARD TO HATRED, LEX? YOU COULD DO SO MUCH MORE. BE SO MUCH MORE.
I WAS MORE, DAMN YOU! BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS IN MY WAY --
-- ALWAYS FORCING ME TO WASTE TIME DEALING WITH YOU --
I WAS GONE FOR A YEAR. YOU DIDN'T CHANGE.
YOU TOOK MY CITY! WITH YOUR POWERS, YOUR FLASHY SUIT --
I HAD IT ALL! AND THEN METROPOLIS TURNED ON ME -- CAST ME ASIDE!
GHH.
THEY HAD TO BE PUNISHED. THEY HAD TO PAY THE PRICE FOR TREATING LEX LUTHOR LIKE SO MUCH --
-ORKHH!
KRAK
NO.
THEY DON'T... DON'T BELONG TO YOU. OR ME, OR ANYONE ELSE. ANY...RESPECT THEY GIVE...IT HAS TO BE EARNED.
PFF.
YOU...WEREN'T EVEN GONE, WERE YOU? YOU WERE STILL THERE. STILL THERE SOMEWHERE... MOCKING ME, WORKING AGAINST ME...
YES, LEX.
I WAS THERE. SOMEWHERE. JUST LIKE I ALWAYS WILL BE.

DAMN YOU! I'LL KILL YOU RIGHT --
-- HUHH!
MISSED. RAGE'LL DO THAT.
I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE. ALWAYS. IT'S NOT THE POWERS, NOT THE CAPE. IT'S ABOUT STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE. FOR TRUTH.
AS LONG AS PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE OUT THERE, I'LL BE THERE.
KRAFF
ALWAYS.
He doesn't get up. And I --
hmm...
Fall took more out of me than I thought --

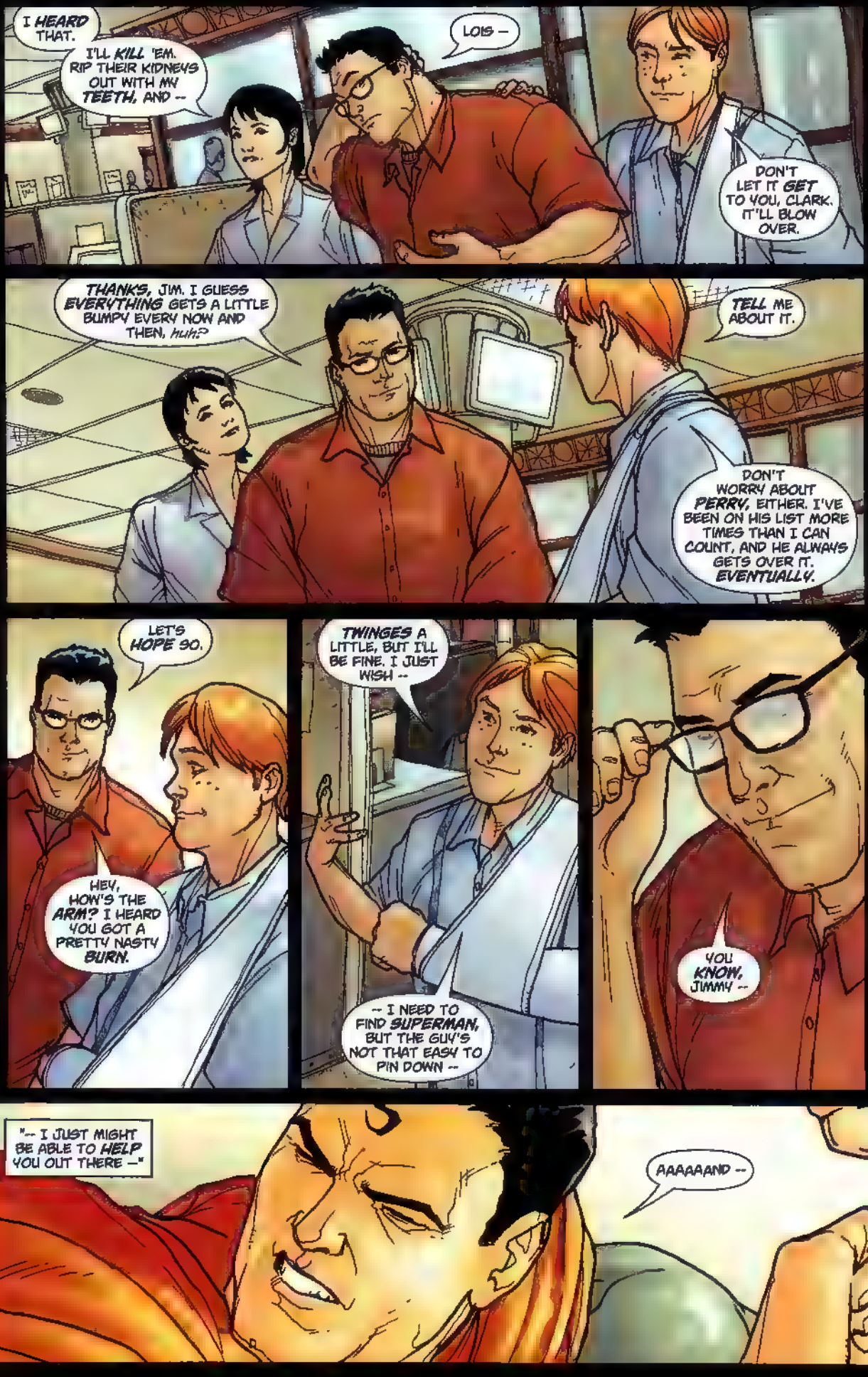
...SUPERMAN?
HE'S WAKING UP.
JUST REST, SIR. WE'LL HAVE YOU AT ELLSWORTH MEMORIAL IN THREE --
WHERE'S... LUTHOR?
ON HIS WAY TO STRYKER'S. NOW LIE BACK, REST --
N-NO... IT'S OKAY...
...I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
SEE? JUST FINE.
IF YOU SAY SO, SIR.
I feel the sun on my back, my arms, soaking through me, restoring me. I welcome it in.
I'm a little shaky at first --
SUPERMAN! YAAAY! SU-PER-MAN!

SU-PER-MAN!
-- but I feel better and better as I go.
And even if my powers weren't back, I think the force of the city cheering would hold me aloft. Feels like they're all out on the streets, and the sound swells upward, washing through me --
It has to be earned, Lex. There's no other way.
When I near Sullivan Place, I put on a burst of speed, so nobody'll be able to track me --
CLARK!
THEY WOULDN'T LET ME ON THE RESCUE CHOPPER -- BUT I KNEW YOU'D COME HERE --
I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK --
I'LL ALWAYS COME BACK, LOIS.
ALWAYS.

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT —
The next day, the air is filled with the blare of car horns, the staccato of jackhammers, and the volleying rumble of ten million voices.
We're already getting back to normal.
In Weisinger Square, federal agents oversee the recovery of Dru-Zod's ship, shrunk back down to its simplest form.
Already, dozens of corporations and universities are vying to be the ones to study it.
Luthor's lawyers issue a statement that he was mind-controlled by the ship and had been fighting to stop it.
There might even be a few people who buy it.
And the mayor announces plans for another Superman Day.
HEY, KENT! WHAT'S THAT?
COOKIES?
IT'S FROM HIS FOLKS IN KANSAS. IF IT'S MORE OF THOSE OATMEAL-RAISIN COOKIES HIS MOM MAKES...
FRAGILE
BRATTEN! KENT'S GOT COOKIES!

SORRY, MEG. NO BAKED GOODS THIS TIME.
I'LL HAVE HIM TELL MA YOU WERE ASKING, THOUGH.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
I'd told Ma that my returning powers seemed to be disrupting electronics. She said she had just the thing.
HA. WAY TO JOIN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, KENT.
NINETEENTH.
MANUAL TYPEWRITERS ARE NINETEENTH.
THEY STILL MAKE CARBON PAPER? OR DO YOU NEED A TEAM OF MONKS TO COPY YOUR --
Let 'em scoff. Maybe the change is just temporary, but I've had enough computer crashes for a --
KENT!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING YESTERDAY, KENT? YOU RAN OUT ON US! WE HAD A STORY TO COVER, AND WE NEEDED --
OH, PERRY. I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU BEFORE -- I'VE GOT SOME STUFF FOR YOU.
AS LONG AS I WAS STUCK IN BED, I DID SOME PHONE WORK.
HERE.
Huh.
PERSPECTIVES ON THE ATTACK, A STATEMENT FROM LEXCORP, PENTAGON OFFICIALS, ABOUT THE SHIP --

ALL RIGHT, KENT.
IT'S GOOD STUFF. SOME OF IT'S MORE THAN GOOD STUFF.
BUT I DON'T NEED BRILLIANT-BUT-ERRATIC. WHAT I NEED IS DEPENDABILITY. DEPENDABILITY!
Ah --
DEPENDABILITY EVERY DAY, GENIUS ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH, THAT'D BE FINE WITH --
Ahem.
RIGHT, LOOK AT LOIS. BRILLIANT, SURE, BUT DEPENDABLE. THAT'S WHAT I'M --
PERRY. ENOUGH.
Huh?
CLARK WAS SICK YESTERDAY, PERRY.
HE WAS SICK AND HE STILL MANAGED TO DELIVER INTERVIEWS AND COPY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO USE IN EVERYONE'S EXPANDED COVERAGE OF THE BATTLE --
-- AND YOU'RE YELLING AT HIM?!
BUT --
ENOUGH, PERRY.
I got most of the interviews last night or this morning, but that's unlikely to come up. Lois shouldn't stick up for me so much, though --
AAAH.
WISH I COULD TAKE A DAY AND JUST MAKE A FEW CALLS TOO, AND HAVE MARY TELL PERRY TO JUST TAKE IT.
Ah, BUT YOU'RE NOT THE GREAT MR. LANE...


I HEARD THAT.
I'LL KILL 'EM. RIP THEIR KIDNEYS OUT WITH MY TEETH, AND --
LOIS --
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, CLARK. IT'LL BLOW OVER.
THANKS, JIM. I GUESS EVERYTHING GETS A LITTLE BUMPY EVERY NOW AND THEN, huh?
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT PERRY, EITHER. I'VE BEEN ON HIS LIST MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT, AND HE ALWAYS GETS OVER IT. EVENTUALLY.
LET'S HOPE SO.
HEY, HOW'S THE ARM? I HEARD YOU GOT A PRETTY NASTY BURN.
TWINGES A LITTLE, BUT I'LL BE FINE. I JUST WISH --
-- I NEED TO FIND SUPERMAN, BUT THE GUY'S NOT THAT EASY TO PIN DOWN --
YOU KNOW, JIMMY --
"-- I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU OUT THERE --"
AAAAAAND --

-- THERE!
THAT OUGHT TO HOLD IT, UNTIL MORE THOROUGH REPAIRS CAN BE MADE.
HOB'S BAY --
There's damage all over the city, but parts of Hob's Bay were hit especially hard during Luthor's attack. And since this is where most of the men and women live who'll be doing the repairs on the rest of the city --
A LITTLE HEAT VISION TO WELD IT IN PLACE...
-- I think it's only fair to get them on their feet, while they get the rest of us going again

HA! YOU'RE KIDDIN', RIGHT?
THAT'S THE LAST OF THE MOST-DAMAGED BUILDINGS, CHIEF.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THAT I'M NOT A UNION MEMBER.
MY MA LIVES TWO DOORS DOWN. YOU CAN HELP OUT ANY TIME.
BESIDES, IF THERE'S ANYTHING THE MONARCH CITY'S NEVER SHORT ON —
— IT'S REPAIR W —
SUPERMAN! HEY, SUPERMAN, I GOTTA TALK TO YOU!
SURE, JIM.
I'LL PITCH IN MORE LATER, CHIEF
DON'T SWEAT IT, BIG GUY.
JUST HOLD ON A SECOND...
MAN. THIS NEVER GETS OLD.
...WE CAN TALK IN PRIVATE.
WHAT'S UP?
IT'S, WELL — I FOUND SOMETHING.
IT FELL NEAR ME RIGHT AT THE END OF YOUR BIG FIGHT, WHEN ALL THAT CRYSTAL STUFF WAS DISSOLVING. I FIGURE THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WANTS IT —
— BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE IT.
THE SUNSTONE CRYSTAL — !

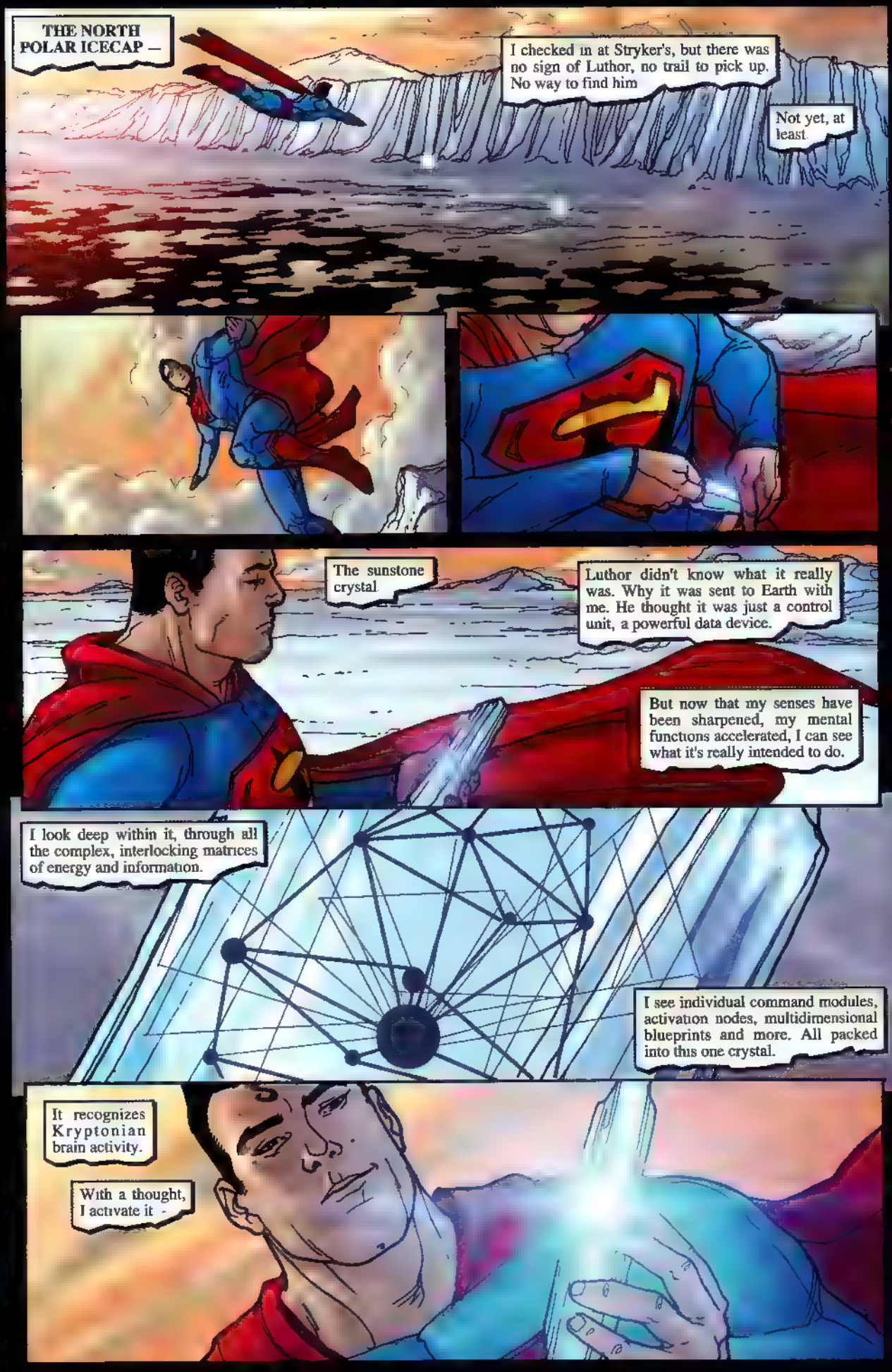
I APPRECIATE THIS, JIM.
AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE DURING THE BATTLE.
HEY, NO PROBLEM.
YOU GOT ME TO THE AMBULANCE, WE'RE SQUARE.
HEY, AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE, I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU, TOO.
SINCE I'M GOING TO BE AROUND AGAIN...
...I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE NEEDING THIS BACK.
THE SIGNAL-WATCH?!
REALLY?
THANKS -- THIS IS GREAT!
AND YOU'RE RIGHT -- NEVER KNOW WHEN I MIGHT NEED ANOTHER AMBULANCE RUN, huh?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK, PAL. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
HONNK SKREE
AAAU AIEE!
KZAT KZAT
UH-OH. THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THE AVENUE OF TOMORROW.
YOU CAN MAKE IT BACK TO THE PLANET OKAY? THIS IS PROBABLY SOMETHING I NEED TO CHECK INTO.

THE AVENUE OF TOMORROW --
It is
STAGG
VULCAN INDUSTRIES
HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHAHA!
DIE, SUPERMAN!
DIE AT THE HANDS OF DR. VIRUS --
-- AND
KRYPTOCOCCUS,
THE OMNI-GERM!

KRYPTOCOCCUS CAN DUPLICATE AND COMMUNICATE ANY DISEASE -- HUMAN OR ALIEN!
I'LL HAVE YOU PUKING YOUR GUTS OUT IN MINUTES -- AND DELIVER YOUR DEAD BODY TO INTERGANG FOR THE REWARD!
Intergang again?
TRUTH TO TELL, I DO FEEL A LITTLE WOOZY, "DR. VIRUS" --
-- OR DR. VERISOFSKY, IF I'VE READ THE DRIVER'S LICENSE IN YOUR BACK POCKET CORRECTLY --
-- BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING MOST INFECTIOUS ORGANISMS DON'T DEAL WELL WITH --
-- IT'S HIGH HEAT!
YOU WERE SAYING?
I-IT -- IT WASN'T ME! IT WAS INTERGANG!
THEY CAME TO ME, AFTER THE GOVERNMENT CANCELLED MY GRANT OVER SAFETY CONCERNS! THEY PAID ME, THREATENED ME -- !
I DIDN'T WANT TO! I --

Intergang making trouble, lunatic geniuses, science run amok
HEY, SUPERMAN --
SUPERMAN --
COULD YOU SIGN --
- I guess we are getting back to normal after all
-- JUST WANT TO LET YOU KNOW, NOT ALL SCIENTISTS ARE RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE.
I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU MY CHRONAL-RIFT EXPERIMENTS SOMETIME...
YOU SURE?
STRICT POLICY, SORRY.
NO SIGNING BODY PARTS.
GO AHEAD, CELESTE, IT'S OKAY...
FOR ME? IT'S BEAUTIFUL, THANK YOU.
HEY --
GOT A CAMERA, IF I COULD --
ONE FOR MY KID --
HOLD IT A MINUTE. I NEED TO HEAR THIS.
It's on television. Blocks away, near Metro Square

-- REPEAT THE TOP STORY, STRYKER'S ISLAND PRISON WAS ATTACKED BY FLYING ROBOTS MINUTES AGO.
THE ROBOTS BROKE INTO THE CELL HOLDING LEX LUTHOR, PREPARATORY TO ARRAIGNMENT, AND TELEPORTED HIM --
Sigh
Yeah, back to normal, I guess
WHATEVER IT IS, SUPES, YOU'LL KICK ITS BUTT, I KNOW IT.
WHAT HE SAID, GUY. YOU'RE THE BEST.
BACK AT YOU. ALL OF YOU.
NOW, I REALLY NEED TO --
SUPERMAN!
SUPERMAN, WAIT! DON'T GO YET!
MAHJOUB?


THE NORTH POLAR ICECAP —
I checked in at Stryker's, but there was no sign of Luthor, no trail to pick up. No way to find him
Not yet, at least.
The sunstone crystal
Luthor didn't know what it really was. Why it was sent to Earth with me. He thought it was just a control unit, a powerful data device.
But now that my senses have been sharpened, my mental functions accelerated, I can see what it's really intended to do.
I look deep within it, through all the complex, interlocking matrices of energy and information.
I see individual command modules, activation nodes, multidimensional blueprints and more. All packed into this one crystal.
It recognizes Kryptonian brain activity.
With a thought, I activate it -

CHUFF
SHMM
SHMM
SHSHH
KHFFF
SHMM
SHSHH

I can still feel it shifting, assembling itself inside. I know some of what's within, but not all of it. It's a gift. From Krypton. From my parents.
A home. Or at least, a home as they envisioned them.
My Fortress of Solitude in the Amazon is damaged, and too many people know where it is. I do need another.
Maybe I'll keep that one. It's useful to have a "public address," after all. But I need another, at least.
Maybe multiple sanctuaries, around the world.
Maybe.
I'll think about it later.

Ah, Mahjoub.
A thank-you, he called it. For saving the city. Saving his home, his livelihood.
My powers are back. My senses -- touch, smell, taste -- they've all changed. More precise, but distanced. Different.
Mmmmm.
Ah, but some things. Some things --
-- you never lose.
I go in, to see what lies ahead.

UP, UP AND AWAY! FINALE

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

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PETE WOODS-Art
BRAD ANDERSON-Colors • ROB LEIGH-Letters
TERRY & RACHEL DODSON-Cover Artists • ALEX SINCLAIR-Cover Colorist
NACHIE CASTRO-Associate Editor • MATT IDELSON-Editor
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

BRAVE NEW WORLD

There it was, on page 32 of INFINITE CRISIS #6: *New Earth*. With two simple words, everything changed. You witnessed the evolution in **52** after feeling the sudden shock of One Year Later. So with apologies to Aldous Huxley and his seminal work, you are about to enter a **BRAVE NEW WORLD**.

Coming out of INFINITE CRISIS, one of our goals was to seriously shake up the status quo – recast our world, our *universe*, with an energy that hadn't been felt in the past twenty years. We examined every character and comic and recast them in a style reflecting today's world and audience. By now, you should feel the change all around you, and BRAVE NEW WORLD is our next bold step.

In 52, we examine the political and social makeup of the DC Universe. And while that story continues to unfold weekly, BRAVE NEW WORLD gives you six vignettes featuring characters who personify this change. And before you start thinking this is *just* a preview book, there is one surprise twist that will set the stage for exciting events in the DCU for years to come.

As with COUNTDOWN, we wanted to put value first, with 80 pages featuring some of the industry's top creators and rising stars for only a dollar. Consider it a thank-you for your support for the mega-event that ran from COUNTDOWN to CRISIS. Enjoy the book and watch for these series that follow.

With one simple word – Shazam – Billy Batson turned into the World's Mightest Mortal. But the wizard Shazam is dead, magic is now primal, and where Billy used to control the powers, the powers now control *him*. Follow **THE TRIALS OF SHAZAM** as Judd Winick continues to redefine the Marvel Family with stunning art by Howard Porter.

Ryan Choi, an award-winning scientist in his home of mainland China, emigrates to the U.S. to follow in the footsteps of his idol, Ray Palmer. But as Gail Simone, John Byrne and Trevor Scott show (from a concept developed by Grant Morrison), Ryan not only follows Ray's path to Ivy University but to size-changing adventures as **THE ALL-NEW ATOM**.

UNCLE SAM AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS navigate the dangerous political landscape of the United States as the government deals with a world of superpowers post-CRISIS. With concepts developed by Grant Morrison, the Spirit of America is reborn in stories by Jim Palmiotti and Justin Gray with art by our fastest rising star, Daniel Acuna.

Jack Ryder's television show "YOU ARE WRONG!" constantly rails against the pop-culture phenomenon of superhero worship. Seems a bit hypocritical, since he also prowls the night, under the watchful eyes of Steve Niles and Justiniano, as the mysterious creature known as **THE CREEPER**.

Mike Costner is one of many people displaced by the DCU's world-shaping catastrophes. But he is also one of a kind. Once there were millions of **OMACs**; now there is only one, and, somehow, only Mike can stop it. Bruce Jones and Renato Guedes tell the tale of a homeless boy's struggle to reclaim his life from the One Man Army Corps.

J'onn J'onzz also thought *he* was alone, the last survivor of a dead world. He was wrong. Somewhere on Earth there may be more Green Martians, and with them the chance for him to reclaim his heritage and forge a new destiny. A.J. Lieberman and Al Barrionuevo will show you how **MARTIAN MANHUNTER** earns his name.

Well, there you have it – a great value book and six exciting new series premiering over the next two months. As for those last pages and their shocking revelation, I only have two things to say: look to the skies, and keep reading. You won't regret it.

To be continued.

dan didio

DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

Next in...

ACTION COMICS #841

Kurt Busiek and Fabian Nicieza come on-board to tell an interplanetary tale of danger, death and the highest bidder!

THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK

52 #8

ACTION COMICS #840

DCU: BRAVE NEW WORLD #1

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